लेफ्टिनेंट कर्नल प्रताप को सूचना दी और उन्होंने तत्काल लेफ्टिनेंट कर्नल अरविन्द गुप्ता को, जो आफिसियेटिंग रेजिडेंट वार्डन हैं, उनको सूचना दी और 4 दिसम्बर को प्रताप ने कर्नल एडमिनिस्ट्रेटर को सूचना दी। लड़के के घर पर टेलीफोन से सम्पर्क करने के बाद रेजिडेंट वार्डन ने कहा कि पुलिस को खबर दी जाए और उसी दिन शाम को 5 बजे उन्होंने सिविल स्टेशन में एफआई.आर. लाज की। 5 दिसम्बर को उसके परिवार-जन आए और 5 दिसम्बर से अनेक स्थानों पर सर्च शुरू हुई। उसके बाद अखबारों में विज्ञापन दिए गए और पुलिस कमिश्नर से मुलाकातें हुईं और एक कोर्ट आफ इन्क्वायरी बिठा दी गई। लेकिन किसी भी प्रकार की कोई खबर अभी तक हासिल नहीं हो पाई है और आखिरी बार जो होस्टल की ओर से, मेडिकल कालेज की ओर से पुलिस को सूचना दी गई थी याद दिलाने के लिए, वह 5 मार्च, 1999 को गई थी।

श्री रामजीलाल: सभापति जी, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या उस छात्र के माता-पिता ने अधिकारियों द्वारा सहयोग नहीं दिये जाने का आरोप लगाया है? सशस्त्र सेना मेडिकल कालेज से इस तरह से छात्रों का गायब हो जाना और सवा दो साल तक उसकी जानकारी न होना, यह बहुत चिन्ता का विषय है।

श्री जार्ज फर्नान्डीज़: सभापति जी, ऐसी कोई शिकायत हमारे पास नहीं आई है और न कोई ऐसी सूचना मुझे दी गई है। जहां तक खोज करने की बात है, जो खोज उस कालेज की ओर से की जा सकती थी, वह की गई। अब मामला पुलिस के हाथ में है और सिविल पुलिस उसमें जो कुछ करे, उसी पर निर्भर रहना होगा। हमारे इंस्टीट्यूशन के पास ऐसा कोई इन्तज़ाम नहीं है कि हम खोज कर सकें। लेकिन विज्ञापन वगैरह जो दिये गये, वह कालेज की ओर से दिये गये।

श्री ईश दत्त यादव: माननीय सभापति जी, यह गम्भीर घटना है। दो साल से अधिक समय हो गया लेकिन उस नौजवान का आज तक पता नहीं चला। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या पुलिस को सूचना देने के बाद आपका उत्तरदायित्व समाप्त हो गया? आपने एफ॰ आई॰ आर॰ किया, उस एफ॰आई॰आर॰ को परस्यु किया गया या नहीं? दो साल में एफ॰आई॰आर॰ की जो विवेचना हुई होगी, इनवैस्टीगेशन हुआ होगा, उसका कुछ परिणाम आया है या नहीं, उसकी आपको जानकारी है या नहीं?

श्री जार्ज फर्नान्डीज़: सभापति जी, पुलिस से बार-बार उच्च स्तर पर उसके बारे में सम्पर्क होता रहा है। उनसे अभी तक जो जानकारी मिली है, वह यही है कि हम लोग प्रयास में हैं। लेकिन हमें कोई पता नहीं लग रहा है।

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: I would request the hon. Minister to take some more initiatives keeping in view the seriousness of the case and direct the police officials who are entrusted with the inquiry to expedite the case. They should take it on a humanitarian ground and in a more (*Interruptions*) conscientious manner.

श्री जार्ज फर्नान्डीज़: वह कर दिया जाएगा जो हो ही रहा है लेकिन और भी एक बार किया जाएगा।

विद्युत परियोजनाओं द्वारा क्षमता का उपयोग

*302. श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया:
श्री कपिल सिब्बल:†

क्या विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में बहुत सी विद्युत उत्पादन परियोजनाएं विद्युत उत्पादन के लिए अपनी-अपनी कुल उत्पादन क्षमता के 90 प्रतिशत का उपयोग कर रही हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वे परियोजनाएं कौन-कौन सी हैं और वे बिजली का कुल कितना उत्पादन कर रही हैं;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि उनकी विद्युत उत्पादन संबंधी लागत अन्य परियोजनाओं की लागत से कम है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उन परियोजनाओं की विद्युत उत्पादन लागत क्या है जो अपनी-अपनी कुल उत्पादन क्षमता के केवल 90 प्रतिशत का उपयोग कर रही हैं?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The names of the power stations which utilised 90 per cent of their total installed capacity for power generation alongwith total generation of power during 1997-98 and

†सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री कपिल सिब्बल द्वारा पूछा गया।

1998-99 (upto February 1999) are given below:--

Sl. No.	Name of Power Station	Installed Capacity (MW)	Energy generation (MU)		Plant Load Factor (%)	
			97-98	98-99*	97-98	98-99*
	COAL BASED THERMAL STATIONS:					
1.	Singrauli STPS, NTPC	2000	-	14620	-	91.2
2.	NCTPP (Dadri), NTPC	840	-	6101	-	90.6
3.	Rayalseema TPS, APSEB	420	-	3090	-	91.8
4.	Vijayawada TPS, APSEB	1260	10365		93.9	
	NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS:					
	-Nil-					
	HYDRO:					

The performance depends on head conditions, availability of water, mandatory releases, type of scheme.

*Upto February, 1999.

(c) and (d) Cost of power generation in a power station utilising 90% of its installed capacity may not necessarily be lower than the cost of other projects as the cost of generation in thermal power stations depends upon a number of factors viz. location, availability of infrastructure facilities, design and technology use, year of installation, quality of main fuel, maintenance level etc. Cost of generation in a thermal power station depends upon a number of factors viz. location, availability of infrastructure facilities, design and technology used, year of installation, quality of main fuel, maintenance level etc. Further, hydro power plants are site specific.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, the hon. Minister has given the figures in respect of four power plants which have a plant load factor of over 90 percent. I would request the Minister to give me information in respect of plant load factor of the other power plants as well. But, the more important issue is that the Minister has not given the power production cost in respect of each of these plants. Would the Minister kindly clarify that?

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, the question was not put in that form. Otherwise, I would have clarified it. I would just like to ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: The power production cost is less than that of the other projects. You have not given the power production cost of other projects. You have only stated that the power production cost depends on various factors. I would like to know what those factors are and what, in fact, the power production cost is.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, the power production cost depends on various factors. The first factor, of course, obviously is the capital cost. The second is the variable cost which has two parts in it; one is the consumption and the other is the maintenance cost which is called the operational maintenance cost. These are the three parts which in broader terms work out to the cost of operation. In addition to this, when you talk of the capital cost, you are talking of the return on the capital cost which is normally 16 per cent of the equity that goes into it. In the NTPC, earlier we had the equity debt ratio of 50 and 50, that is, 1:1. Now we have announced that in power plants it should be 30 and 70, that is, equity should be 30:70. Actually, on the basis of that this factors is worked out.

Now, normally, the Plant Load Factor, efficiency indicator for a generating station is based on the rated capacity. Advisable PLF, actually, is 85 per cent. When you go a little above 85 per cent you are stretching the system a bit because 15 per cent of the time is supposed to be kept aside for annual maintenance, capital

renovation, RNN, etc. The truth is, when you have shortage of power, you push the system a little more than it is required. We complement it because you are short of power. Sometimes, stretching the system a bit more, creates some problem. You can take it up to 90 per cent or 92 per cent or 93 per cent. Only the good plants are doing this; not all plants. You can see that our national average is not too bad. Now it is improving. There is an improvement in the PLF. There was a time when it was around 40 per cent. Now people are conscious and we are producing more. But I must say that PLF also changes on the demand basis, bacause the Plant Load Factor is different from the availability. You may make your machine available, but you may not put it on the grid and actually connect it; for example, there are many plants in the Eastern Region which are having a PLF of 42 per cent to 43 per cent. It is not because all those plants are not in good condition, or it is not because they are not capable of being operational.

If you operate them, your frequency will go up and, therefore, you will destroy the whole system. In fact, the visual load despatch centre controls; it says, "No. You got to back-down your generation." So, when you back-down your generation, your PLF also goes down because you are not producing enough power. But you have to back-down, because you have surplus in the Eastern Region. Now, of course, we are pushing about 1000 M.W. out of the Eastern Region to the other three regions. But, initially, it was not being done. It was between 100 M.W. and 200 M.W. which was going interregional. Now, we are bringing in a national grid to ensure that this problem of imbalance of surplus and shortage does not take place.

With regard to the actual stations and their costs....

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I just want to mention to the hon. Minister that the problem of increasing the Plant Load Factor is only to ensure that there is a greater generation of electricity. That is the objective. On the one hand, you have to increase the Plant Load Factor in respect of every plant; and, on the other hand, you have to reduce the transmission losses which is to the extent of 20 per cent.

Thirdly, you have to have a greater investment in the power sector. Now, mere increase in the Plant Load Factor is not enough. What is government doing about greater investment and ensuring lesser transmission losses? Would the hon. Minister clarify that position, because I am given to understand that all the independent IPPs, which are sought to be set up—at least, I have some knowledge of Madhya Pradesh—have not even got off the ground yet. And, if they are not going to get off the ground, the reason is simple—no State Government and no Electricity Board has the escrowable capacity to back up the tariff that is going to be charged. If the States are stripped of finances and if there is going to be no help to the States in regard thereto, how are you going to get increased generation and how are you going to get lower transmission losses if there is going to be a lot of theft on the way? Would the hon. Minister clarify that position?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I agree with the hon. Member. He is putting the issues quite squarely. Actually, today, with regard to power supply, we have a short supply of 10 per cent to 11 per cent of 'base load power.' We are 18 per cent short of 'peaking power'. Which means, whenever a high demand for power comes, you have such a shortage that your frequency drops and you have power cuts. Today, we are in a comfortable position in Delhi. I do not know what will happen during summer. But we do have a situation where we have transmission losses varying in our country; right from 43 per cent in Delhi to 12 per cent in some States. The national average is 22 per cent when I became the Minister. Now it has come down by a per cent. There is a great amount of pressure. I can say this much. All the SEBs are very conscious of this problem. We have had a lot of discussion. The technical losses, normally, is between 12 per cent and 17 per cent, but we are improving this problem of theft by going in for a modern metering system using electronic metering system, etc. We have even traces now. You can sent digital trace signals down the cable to find out actually from where the theft had taken place. But the real truth is that there is a collusion between those who are actually to supervise, to see that the line is not tampered and there is no theft; and the person who indulges in absorbing

power. I may say here that many people do not realise that the poor cannot absorb too much power. We often criticize the dwellers jhuggi-jhopri that they are the people who put hooks and draw power for their houses. But to steal power, you must have money to invest in power-consuming equipment. So, it is the rich people, the better-off people, who are actually the main culprits in the game of stealing power, and not the poor. Unfortunately in the campaign, we shifted to the jhuggi-jhopri, trying to divert the attention as a redherring. The real truth is that the people in large mentions, illegal industries, people who have power-consuming equipment are the main defaulters, and they are very influential. It is a major issue. That is why in many places where we find that the transmission and distribution losses are high because of theft, we have strongly rcommended privatisation. We have even come out with details and how to go about it. But that is insofar as theft is concerned. We are also going in for system improvement in a major way by giving loans, concessional support for improving transmission and distribution.

As far as IPPs are concerned, my good friend is correct in saying that the State Governments have got limited escrowable capacity in our country. Today all the SEBs put together-stretching it to the maximum account for 20,000 MW, while, actually, we need 40,000 MW by 2002; otherwise, we are going to slip very badly on our power situation. That is why, the Government of India took a decision to come out with what is called a Mega Policy, where we pushed both the public sector and the private sector in a major way. Where we come out with a power-trading company, we come out with a new securitisation method, with an attempt to go in even for joint ventures in hydro and other projects. (*Interruptions*) Just a second. I will come to your question. We are providing, in addition to the escrowable capacity of 20,000 MW, another 20,000 MW in the private sector in large plants based on pit-head as well as on coastal base, where the power-trading company will buy the power and re-sell it, thereby acting as an in-between, if I may say so, a facilitating agent, where escrow is not possible to be given by the SEBs, and the Government of India steps in and uses its equipment or a plant of a power-trading company to ensure that there is securitisation possible by the IPPs. But this is, let me make it very clear, a temporary measure hoping that the SEBs will improve.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, the point which I was making was that there are a lot of companies which are willing to join with Indian companies and bring in a lot of private investment from abroad. The problem arises that they want to make sure that when, ultimately, they supply the power to the electricity boards, they are going to be paid for it. The problem is that the State Governments say they do not have enough money to give escrowable capacity. Now, if they do not have money, you are not going to get the private investment.

You have to go back to square one. So, why do you not think of a scheme by which you have a national policy on the basis of which the tariff structure will automatically increase and pegged to the increase in the consumer price index. That law can be made applicable throughout the country. Every State Electricity Board which asks for subventions and aid should, as a condition of that subvention, be forced to increase the tariff on that basis. What does the Minister say about that?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I think, I should draw the attention of my good friend-maybe he has been very busy in the court-that we have passed an Act known as the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission Act and the State Electricity Regulatory Commission Act. Under this Act, the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has been set up. The State Electrictiy Regulatory Commissions will be set up by 31st March. I am sure all the States have come up because they have taken the relevant steps and the tariff will be fixed there. The Act sets the guidelines exactly as my good friend wants. I would like him to see the Act...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: No, I have seen the Act...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down...(*Interruptions....*)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I just want to clarify that ....(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, nothing more. This question has already taken 20 minutes.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: But, Sir, this is a very important issue...*(Interruptions)*....

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is better you ask for a debate. The BAC will see to it. Now, the next question.

कोयला क्षेत्र में रोजगार

*303. श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत: क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) इस समय कोयला क्षेत्र में प्रत्यक्ष या अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से कितने लोगों को रोजगार मिला हुआ है;

(ख) गत तीन वर्षों में विभिन्न खान दुर्घटनाओं में कुल कितने कोयला श्रमिक मारे गये और ऐसी दुर्घटनाओं को रोकने हेतु क्या उपाय किए जा रहे हैं; और

(ग) कोयला क्षेत्र में श्रमिकों के कल्याण के लिए सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The total number of persons employed directly is as follows:—

(i) Coal India Limited (as on 10.2.99)	-	5,92,747
(ii) Singareni Collieries Company Limited	-	1,09,706
(iii) Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (as on 31.12.98)	-	8,394
(iv) Others	-	1,43,221
TOTAL		**8,540,68**

It is not possible to assess accurately the number of persons employed indirectly.

(b) The number of coal labourers killed in various mine accidents occurred during the last three years in mines under Coal India Limited, Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited(NLC) is given below:-

Year	No of labouers killed		
	CIL	SCCL	NLC
1996	110	29	-
1997	112	35	5
1998	99	36	2

The following safety measures are being implemented in the coal mines of CIL, SCCL and NLC:—

1. Conducting periodic safety audits of mines and monitoring the implementation of the recommendations thereof;
2. Monitoring the safety status of mines through monthly safety status reports of each and every mine;
3. *Introduction of a system of safety* clearance of the production districts before commencement of production;
4. Thrust on implementation of scientific method of roof support through rock mass rating based support plans by roof bolting and roof stitching systems of support;
5. Preparation of emergency organisation plans for dealing with mining disasters for every mine and conducting mock rehearsals;
6. Area level safety meetings held by General Managers with the Union representatives.
7. Periodical review safety performance of the mines carried out by Tripartite Forum viz Safety Boards at the corporate level and by the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal mines at the level of Ministry of Coal.

(c) Coal India Limited, SCCL and NLC have been paying considerable importance to the welfare of its employees. The companies take special care to improve various facilities like housing, water supply, medical care, education facilities etc., including canteen and banking facilities along-with sports and cultural activities.

In Coal India Limited a Welfare Board — a Joint Bipartite Forum of operating unions and management representatives — functions at